Miami-Dade County Coastal Wetlands Permitting

Miami-Dade County Wetlands Advisory Task Force

November 8, 2011

Matthew Davis, Division Chief
Natural Resource Regulation and Restoration
Permitting, Environment and Regulatory Affairs

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Class I Permits

- Pursuant to Section 24-48 of the Miami-Dade County Code, permits are required for work in, on, over, or upon the tidal waters, submerged lands, or wetlands supporting halophytic (salt tolerant) vegetation

- Wetland determinations in areas supporting halophytic vegetation are performed in accordance with the applicable sections of Florida State Statutes and Florida Administrative Code

- Halophytic vegetation is defined in Section 24-5 of the Miami-Dade County Code

Code Defined Halophytic Vegetation

- Aizoaceae (carpetweed family)
- *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (sea purslane)
- Amaranthaceae (amaranth family)
- *Philoxerus vermicularis* (marsh samphire)
- Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis family)
- *Hymenocallis latifolia* (spider lily)
- Apocynaceae (oleander family)
- *Rhabdadenia biflora* (mangrove rubber vine)
- Asteraceae (aster family)
- *Aster tenuifolius* var. *aphyllus* (salt-marsh aster)
- *Baccharis angustifolia* (false willow)
- *Baccharis halimifolia* (groundsel tree)
- *Borrichia arborescens* (oxeye daisy)
- *Borrichia frutescens* (oxeye daisy)
- *Iva frutescens* (marsh elder)
- Avicenniaceae (black mangrove family
- *Avicennia germinans* (black mangrove)
- Batidaceae (saltwort family)
- *Batis maritima* (saltwort)
- Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family)
- *Salicornia virginica* (perennial glasswort)
- *Salicornia bigelovii* (annual glasswort)
- *Suaeda linearis* (sea blite)
- *Salsola kali* (saltwort)
- Combretaceae (white mangrove family)
- *Conocarpus erecta* (buttonwood)
- *Laguncularia racemosa* (white mangrove)
- Cymodoceaceae (manatee grass family)
- *Halodule wrightii* (Cuban shoal weed)
- *Syringodium filiforme* (manatee grass)
- Cyperaceae (sedge family)
- *Cyperus odoratus* (sedge)
- *Cyperus ligularis* (sedge)
- *Cyperus planifolius* (sedge)
- *Fimbristylis spathacea*
- Hydrocharitaceae (frog's bit family)
- *Thalassia testudinum (turtle grass)*
- Juncaceae (rush family)
- *Juncus roemerianus* (rush)
- Juncaginaceae (arrow grass family)
- *Triglochin striata*
- Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)
- *Limonium carolinianum* var. *carolinianum* (sea lavender)
- *Limonium carolinianum* var. *angustatum* (sea lavender)
- Poaceae (grass family)
- *Distichlis spicata* (seashore salt grass)
- *Monanthochloe littoralis* (Key grass)
- *Paspalum vaginatum* (salt joint grass)
- *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cord grass)
- *Spartina patens* (salt-meadow cord grass)
- *Spartina spartinae* (gulf cord grass)
- *Sporobolus virginicus* (Virginia dropseed)
- Primulaceae (primrose family)
- *Samolus ebracteatus* (water pimpernel)
- Pteridaceae (bracken family)
- *Acrostichum aureum* (coastal leather fern)
- *Acrostichum danaeafolium* (leather fern)
- Rhizophoraceae (red mangrove family)
- *Rhizophora mangle* (red mangrove)
- Ruppiaceae (widgeon grass family)
- *Ruppia maritima* (widgeon grass)
- Solanaceae (nightshade family)
- *Lycium carolinanum* (Christmasberry)
- Surianaccac (bay-cedar family)
- *Suriana maritima* (bay cedar)

Processing of Class I Permits

- All Class I permit applications for dredging and filling of halophytic wetlands are processed as standard form applications requiring approval by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

- In addition to the evaluation factors specified in the MDC Code, dredging or filling work proposed in Class I permit applications shall meet at least one of the dredge and fill criteria listed in Section 24-48.3(2).

- A variance from this section of the Code may be granted by the Environmental Quality Control Board (EQCB)

Dredge and Fill Criteria

In addition to the applicable evaluation factors found in Section 24-48.3, dredging or filling work proposed in Class I permit applications shall comply with at least one (1) of the following criteria:

1. Minimum dredging and spoiling for public navigation or public necessity.
2. An alteration of physical conditions as may be necessary to enhance the quality or utility of adjacent waters.
3. Minimum dredging and filling for the creation and maintenance of marinas, piers, docks and attendant navigational channels.
4. Minimum dredging and filling as is necessary for the elimination of conditions hazardous to the public health or for the elimination of stagnant waters.
5. Minimum dredging and filling as is necessary to enhance the biological, chemical or physical characteristics of adjacent waters.
6. A physical modification necessary to protect public or private property.

“Coastal” Wetland Factoids

- Halophytic wetlands generally occur along the shoreline of Miami-Dade County and extend inland.
- Mangrove wetlands make up the majority of halophytic wetlands in Miami–Dade County.
- Over 555,000 acres of mangrove wetlands were located statewide in 1996 (Section 403.9322, F.S.)
- 469,000 acres of mangrove wetlands are located statewide as of 2011 (http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/habitats/mangroves.htm)